

Senate District S

Willy Keppel, Republican



DATE OF BIRTH: April 29, 1954

PLACE OF BIRTH: Charleston Naval Base (South Carolina)

NAME OF SPOUSE: Stella Clelland

CHILDREN: Kevin, Meghan

RESIDENCE ADDRESS: 706 2nd Avenue
Bethel, Alaska 99559

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Bethel, Alaska 99559

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OCCUPATION: Heavy construction

LENGTH OF RESIDENCY IN ALASKA: 25 years
Bethel 1987 to present
Copper Center 1977-1987

EDUCATION: Hamilton High School (MT), 1972, Diploma.

MILITARY SERVICE: U.S. Army, 2 years, E-4, Honorable Discharge.

SPECIAL INTERESTS: I love being out and about anywhere in rural Alaska.

OTHER: I worked the oil field in Prudhoe for years. Guided big game hunts for a decade and a half. I spend my summers working for a heavy equipment contractor.

STATEMENT:

We need to change our direction in dealing with power equalization costs, burning \$2.00 fuel doesn't make sense when the wind blows most everyday. Invest in wind generators and let the communities cut their own costs for a magnitude of generations.

The fishing industry is in dire straits. For all those hard working Fishermen who are about to lose their boats and gear, I say it's time for legislation which forgives paying back interest on boat loans from the state. Double the length of loan terms so as to lower the payments. The state can't afford to not have people working. The state sure doesn't need to own boats.

High school dropout rate in Alaska is appalling. I believe the state should withhold the dividend money of any dropout until they turn 21 years of age or at the least provide proof of GED or return to school. Bethel graduated almost 100 less kids than what started 1st grade 12 years ago. Each student is worth almost \$6,000 to our district. Over half a million dollars lost, one year, one class. It's no wonder we can't afford to pay and keep good teachers.

Rural preference for subsistence is the only solution for Alaska.

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